(d) whether any advance information about the occurrence of the diseases can be had beforehand and imparted to the concerned persons for taking precautionary measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The information is being gathered and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

Encouragement of Farmers to increase Agricultural Output

2474. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is Government's policy to encourage farmers to increase their agricultural output;

(b) if so, whether Government will ensure sale or processing of such produce at the places where farmers may like to sell or process freely;

(c) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the restrictions imposed on processing/sale/purchase of agricultural inputs are adversely affecting agriculture production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when they will be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Marketing and Processing of agricultural produce has been progressively liberalised. The farmers have reasonable freedom regarding processing and sale of agricultural produce. The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution placed in Parliament on 14.5.1993 envisages to enhance the focus on these aspects.

(d) and (e) By and large there are no restrictions on processing/sale/purchase of agricultural inputs by the farmers.

Free Trade in Agricultural Products

2475. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's policy is to encourage farmers to increase their production;

(b) if so, whether Government will permit farmers to purchase agricultural inputs of cheap and good quality from any country of the World without restrictions in order to raise their production;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, whether the restrictions are not contrary to the policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The present import policy regarding agricultural inputs is quite pragmatic. Agricultural machinery and pesticides (technical grade material) can be imported under OGL. The import of DAP and MOP, two of the three major fertilisers has been decanalised. The New Policy on Seed Development 1988 provides for making available the best seeds and planting material in the World to our farmers to increase agricultural productivity, production and farm incomes.

Technique to Develop Potato Seeds

2476. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new technique known as TPS or true potato seeds has been developed to increase the production of potato in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make it popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The true potato seed technology makes use of seed and not the tuber for raising the potato crop. The technique requires only 100 gm. seed per ha. against nearly 3 tonnes of seed tubers. The yields are identical and TPS is resistant to late blight. Two hybrid TPS

varieties HPS 1/13 and C/3 have been recommended for cultivation. Further work on agrotechniques and physiology of seed is under way at the Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla.

(c) TPS technology is being popularized through demonstrations, training programmes, release of extension/technical bulletins besides distribution of TPS/TPS seeding tubers to the farmers.

Assistance for losses due to heavy rains in Tamil Nadu

2477. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTI-MALA BALI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total amount of loss suffered in Tamil Nadu state due to recent heavy rains;

(b) the details of the relief measures undertaken by the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of assistance given by the State Government and what relief amount has been sought by the State Government from the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

योजनागत व्यय का गैर-योजना कार्यों में उपयोग

2478. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कृषि मंत्रालय में योजनागत व्यय का गैर योजना कार्यों में उपयोग किया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान कुलकितने योजनागत व्यय को गैर-योजना कार्यों में उपयोग किया गया और उसके क्या कारण थे?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान योजनागत से कुल 469.43 लाख रुपए की राशि को गैर-योजनागत कार्यों में उपयोग किया गया। इस धनराशि के किया गया। एक बड़े भाग का उपयोग देश को टिड्डियों से होने वाले खतरों का सामना करने तथा उससे संबंधित कार्यों पर व्यय

योजनागत निधियों को इस प्रकार गैर-योजनागत कार्यों में उपयोग करने का कारण गैर-योजनागत बजट में निधियों की कमी तथा तुरन्त ऐसी आवश्यकता का होना था जिसके लिए इन निधियों का उपयोग किया गया।

Change in the Cropping Pattern

2479. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in the cropping pattern during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the cropped area is increasing in favour of export oriented agricultural products; and

(c) if so, what will be the impact of such a change on the food security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no significant change in the cropping pattern during the last three years;

(b) There is only marginal increase in area under horticulture crops which have export potential. As regards foodgrains, there is some increase in area under fine quality of rice variety and durum wheat which have also export potential.

(c) The area under rice and wheat, the two major foodgrains, has not shown any declining trend during the last three years. The marginal increase in area in some of the export oriented crops will not have any adverse impact on food security of the country.

Findings of Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the Level of Food Production

2480. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI JANARDAN YADAV:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of the inter-